

REMARKS

Claims 3-15, 17, and 18 are pending in the subject application. Applicant gratefully acknowledge that all of the pending claims are entitled to the benefit of the filing date of provisional application Serial No. 60/188,483 under 35 U.S.C. 119 (e). Applicant provides herewith a Katz-type Declaration, which applicant believes addresses all of the standing rejections of record.

Claims 3-6, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Grant et al. Abstract. The enclosed Declaration from Dr. Grant establishes that the subject matter described in this reference is derived from applicant's own work. In view of this fact, the cited reference does not represent a publication "by others" as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(a), and should be withdrawn as a prior art reference. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of this 35 U.S.C. 102(a) rejection.

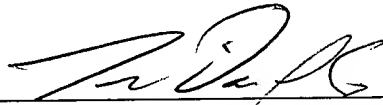
Next, claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the Grant et al. Abstract. Applicant reiterates the remarks made above in rebuttal of the 102(a) rejection which also apply to this rejection. Since the Grant et al. Abstract is no longer a valid prior art reference in this case, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and being obvious over the Grant et al. Abstract in view of the Patel et al. article. The prior Grant et al. reference must be removed as a basis for this rejection. The Patel et al. article does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the invention as claimed in claims 14 and 15. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

All grounds for rejection or objection having been addressed and overcome herein, it is respectfully urged that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this Reply, or if the

Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application.

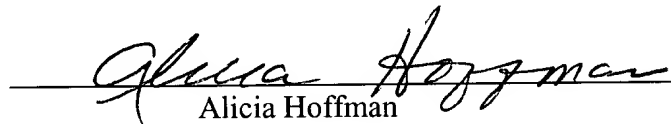
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Arlington, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 21, 2004.



Alicia Hoffman